

Shechtman Receives E-MRS Award

Ames Laboratory research scientist Dan Shechtman received the European Materials Research Society 25th Anniversary award.

The E-MRS award is the highest recognition conferred upon a materials scientist by the society, which is Europe's leading organization for the support and advancement of research in materials. The award consisted of a plaque, a medal and a cash grant of 5000 euro (about \$7,800) sponsored by both E-MRS and Elsevier. Shechtman was formally recognized with the award at a ceremony and banquet held in Strasbourg, France on May 28.



Dan Shechtman

Shechtman, who is also a faculty member in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Iowa State University, was selected by the award committee in recognition of his essential contribution to the discovery of quasi-periodic crystals, also known as quasicrystals, in metallic alloys. In 1982, he discovered the icosahedral phase in a rapidly solidified aluminum transition metal alloy, which opened up the field of quasicrystals as an area of study in materials science.

Shechtman was recruited to the Ames Laboratory and Iowa State through a joint effort between Pat Thiel, Ames Laboratory division director for Science and Technology and quasicrystal expert, and Mufit Akinc, who was then chair of ISU's Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Shechtman joined the staff at Ames Laboratory in 2004.

Harmon, Finnemore Outstanding Referees

Three Ames Laboratory scientists were recognized for their exceptional efforts in assessing manuscripts for American Physical Society journals. Doug Finnemore, senior physicist; Bruce Harmon, deputy Lab director and senior physicist; and a third physicist who requested to remain anonymous are in the inaugural group of Outstanding Referee award winners.

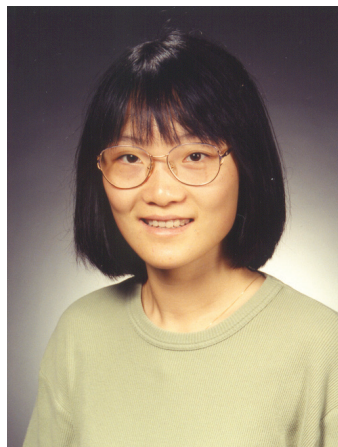
APS initiated the Outstanding Referee award this year to express appreciation to all referees whose efforts in peer review both maintain the high standards of APS journals and help authors improve the quality and readability of their articles.

"Manuscript reviewers often operate in the background without much recognition, but their contributions to their fields of research are enormously important," says Alex King, Ames Laboratory director. "We are pleased that three Ames Lab scientists have been recognized for their service."

Hong Receives "Young Chemist" Award

Ames Laboratory chemist Mei Hong was honored as a recipient of the Agnes Fay Morgan Award by the Iota Sigma Pi Honor Society for Women in Chemistry during the organization's 29th Triennial Convention June 26-29 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Morgan Award is presented annually to a woman age 40 or under in the field of chemistry or biochemistry and consists of \$500, a certificate and membership in Iota Sigma Pi with a waiver of dues for one year. Hong was chosen for the award in 2006, but because the society formally meets only every third year, she was among the three award recipients recognized at this year's convention.



Mei Hong

Thiel Named Iota Sigma Pi Honorary Member



Pat Thiel

Pat Thiel, Ames Laboratory division director for Science and Technology, received the 2008 Iota Sigma Pi Honorary Member award from the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry on June 27 at the organization's 29th Triennial Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Thiel is the 33rd recipient of the award, which was established in 1921 and has gone to three Nobel Laureates, including Marie Curie.

"This is a very distinguished recognition," says Ames Laboratory Director Alex King. "Iota Sigma Pi bestows only one honorary membership every three years, so it is very selective indeed. Pat has been a consistent pioneer in the field of chemistry and certainly deserves the honor. Ames Lab is proud to have her among its leaders."

NSF Early Career Award to Travesset

Alex Travesset, an associate scientist at Ames Laboratory, has received a National Science Foundation CAREER award, the organization's most prestigious award for junior researchers.

The NSF CAREER award recognizes researchers who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research. The five-year, \$410,000 award will support Travesset's theoretical study of the interaction of phospholipids, the molecules that form cell membranes, with GTPases, certain proteins that regulate signaling in cells.



Alex Travesset

Akinc Named ASM Fellow

Mufit Akinc, an associate scientist at Ames Laboratory, was elected a Fellow of ASM International, a society for materials scientists and engineers. Akinc was one of 19 ASM Fellows elected in 2008.

Akinc, who is also an Iowa State University professor of materials science and engineering, was honored for his "contributions to the science and technology of ceramics and alloy powders and for leadership in materials education."

The Fellow designation was established by ASM International to provide recognition to members for their distinguished contributions to the materials science and engineering field. Fellows are considered technical and professional leaders who serve as advisors to the society, and they are selected by their peers in the organization.



Mufit Akinc

MFRC Receives Tech Transfer Award

Ames Laboratory's Midwest Forensics Resource Center received the Outstanding Partnership award from the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer Mid-Continent Region. The FLC Outstanding Partnership award recognizes the MFRC's efforts to promote technology transfer between federal government facilities and the private or public sectors.

The MFRC develops new techniques in forensic science and transfers those techniques to crime laboratories throughout the Midwest. One method of technology transfer is collaborative crime lab-centered forensic research projects that partner crime laboratories with scientists at the MFRC or Midwestern universities.

"All of the MFRC's efforts are designed to develop, test and evaluate more efficient and reliable methods of analyzing evidence and to get information about those methods out into crime laboratories where we hope the new techniques will help busy forensic scientists," says David Baldwin, director of the MFRC. "We are pleased that the Federal Laboratory Consortium recognized our efforts and the efforts of our partner crime laboratories."